

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 PM-07 NSC-07 SS-20

L-03 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 OTPE-00 OC-06 CCO-00

SAJ-01 /123 R

DRAFTED BY DOD/ISA:JHTIMBERLAKE/EUR/CAN:DAKRUSE:DPL

APPROVED BY EUR:RZSMITH

OSD/ISA - MR. BERGOLD

JCS - RADM CONE

L/PM - MR. BOREK

PM - LT. COL. FLEMMINGS (DRAFT)

CSAF - GENERAL EDGE

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P 200004Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

INFO CINCSAC PRIORITY

CINCONAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 157495

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, CA

REFERENCE: A) OTTAWA 2166 B) OTTAWA 2253

1. THE CANADIAN NORTHEAST WIDEBAND SYSTEM (CNEWS), A TROPOSPHERIC SCATTER COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM OWNED BY USAF, SUPPORTS BALLISTIC MISSILE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (BMEWS). CNEWS IS OPERATED AND MAINTAINED BY A CONTRACT WITH CANADIAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION (CCC) WHICH SUBCONTRACTS WITH ITT CANADA. A LABOR DISPUTE BETWEEN ITT AND ITS EMPLOYEES HAS REACHED THE STAGE WHERE A STRIKE COULD OCCUR, TAKING OUT 105 ITT UNION PERSONNEL AND SHUTTING DOWN OPERATION OF THE CNEWS. WE UNDERSTAND MINISTER OF LABOUR HAS APPOINTED A COMMISSIONER TO REVIEW THE DIS-

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PUTE AND THAT STRIKE COULD OCCUR AS SOON AS EARLY AUGUST.

2. THE STRIKE WOULD AFFECT OPERATION OF 4 CNEWS SITES AT MELVILLE, HOPEDALE, SAGLEK, AND RESOLUTION ISLAND, AND DEPOT AT ST. JOHNS. THE COMMUNICATIONS SYTEM CONNECTING THESE 4 SITES HAS BOTH US AND CANADIAN CIRCUITS ASSIGNED, 16 OF WHICH HAVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY (PRIORITY ONE) FOR RESTORATION. THESE 16 CIRCUITS PROVIDE ESSENTIAL NORTH AMERICAN DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY FOR CINCSAC, CINCNORAD, NATO, AND THE US JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. USG REGARDS CONTINUED OPERATION OF CNEWS AS ESSENTIAL TO SECURITY OF NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT.

3. IN VIEW EXTAFF CONCERNS REPORTED PARA 1 REFTTEL A, EMBASSY MAY ASSURE EXTAFF THAT WE RECOGNIZE THAT ANY MEASURES THAT MAY BE TAKEN TO KEEP CNEWS OPERATIONAL DURING STRIKE ARE SUBJECT TO REQUIREMENTS OF 1959 AGREEMENT REGARDING CONSULTATION AND CONCURRENCE.

4. WE WELCOME CANADIAN GOVERNMENT INVITATION FOR TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT AND CONCUR THAT SUCH CONSULTATION SHOULD TAKE PLACE AT EARLY DATE. STATE AND DOD OFFICIALS ARE PRESENTLY DISCUSSING APPROPRIATE COMPOSITION OF TEAM. US TEAM WOULD BE PREPARED TO COME TO OTTAWA EITHER JULY 25 OR 26 IF THIS AGREEABLE TO EMBASSY AND GOC. INGERSOLL

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